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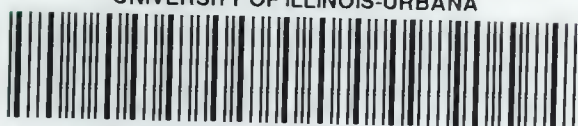
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ABSENTEE VOTING IN ILLINOIS

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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA



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Many registered voters in Illinois are unable to vote in person at the polling place on Election Day. This pamphlet provides general information regarding:

- Who may vote by absentee ballot?
- What are the requirements to vote absentee?
- When can application be made to vote absentee?
- Where does absent voting take place?

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WHO MAY VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT?

Any qualified elector of the State of Illinois properly registered where registration is required.

Registered or non-registered members of the United States Armed Forces while on active duty, members of the Merchant Marines, and U.S. Government employees serving outside the U.S., as well as their spouses and dependents who expect to be absent from their county of residence on election day;

Registered and non-registered citizens of the United States, temporarily out of the country, and their spouses and dependents of voting age when residing with or accompanying them, who maintain a precinct residence in a county in this State;

State and federal employees (and their spouses) who had a voting residence in the precinct at the time they entered employment, but who now reside elsewhere due to state or federal employment, may retain their voting rights in that precinct.

DO I NEED A REASON TO VOTE ABSENTEE?

No. Per Public Act 96-0553, effective August 17, 2009, a person may request and vote an absentee ballot without specifying a reason for the absence from the polling place on Election Day.

CAN CHILDREN OF MILITARY MEMBERS WHO NEVER RESIDED IN ILLINOIS VOTE ABSENTEE?

Yes. Recent law changes allow children of military members who have never resided in Illinois and have reached the age of 18, to be eligible to vote by absentee ballot in Illinois.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO VOTE ABSENTEE?

The voter must obtain an application for absentee ballot, either by mail or in person, from their election authority (county clerk or board of election commissioners). Upon receiving the application, the voter completes and returns it to the election authority. It must include their name; home address; address where they want the ballot mailed; party affiliation for a primary election; and signature. The completed application must then be returned to the election authority in the appropriate time frame.

WHEN CAN APPLICATION BE MADE TO VOTE ABSENTEE?

In Person: Not more than 40 days or less than 1 day prior to the election.

By Mail inside the US: Not more than 40 days or less than 5 days prior to the election.

By Mail outside the US:

- Not less than 30 days prior to the election to receive full ballot or;
- less than 30 days prior to the election, but more than 10 days prior to the election to receive a Federal Ballot only.

CAN ANYONE WHO REQUESTED AN ABSENTEE BALLOT VOTE AT THE POLLS ON ELECTION DAY?

A person who has requested an absentee ballot cannot be permitted to vote in the polling place on Election Day. Exceptions: Any voter to whom an absentee ballot was issued may vote in the polls if:

- the voter submits to the election judges their absentee ballot, or a portion of the ballot for cancellation;
- the voter fills out an affidavit stating that they never received the absentee ballot;
- or the voter fills out an affidavit stating they completed and returned an absentee ballot and the election authority did not receive it.

WHERE DOES ABSENTEE VOTING TAKE PLACE?

Absentee voting may take place in person, or by mail. Contact your election authority for a list of the locations and office hours.

DID YOU KNOW?

Absentee voters have the same obligations as those who vote in the polling place on Election Day. After completing the application, they must vote their ballot in complete secrecy.

The affidavits on the application and the ballot envelope must be signed. These affidavits attest to the accuracy of the information provided on the application. The affidavit on the envelope attests to the fact that the voter is voting **his/her own** ballot **in secret**.

If an absentee ballot is done by mail, the voted ballot must be placed into the certification envelope provided. The certification on the envelope must be completed, signed, and the envelope sealed. Absentee ballots must all be personally returned or mailed to the election authority. Mailed absentee ballots must be postmarked no later than midnight on the night prior to the election, and must be received within 14 days of the election. All absentee ballots are processed centrally.

If the voter receives assistance in voting their absentee ballot, the name and address of the individual giving the assistance must be placed on the certification envelope. Remember that a candidate is NOT allowed to assist an absentee voter unless the candidate is a spouse, parent, child or sibling of the absentee voter.

The absentee voter may authorize, in writing, a spouse, parent, child, brother, sister, or licensed motor carrier, to deliver the ballot to the election authority.

For more information on absentee voting
or other election laws and procedures,
contact your election authority or visit the
Board's website: www.elections.il.gov

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